





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

<https://archive.org/details/addressesatsixth211lear>

GEN



3 1833 01850 8371

GC
974.801
L49L
V.2
NO.11

The Pennsylvania-German and His English and Scotch-Irish Neighbors.

By Prof. M. D. LEARNED, Ph. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Educational Work of Lebanon County.

By Rev. H. U. ROOP, Ph. D., Annville, Pa.

JACOB WEIDLE—A Biographical Sketch.

By Hon. JACOB WEIDLE, Reading, Pa.

In Memorium—WILLIAM COLEMAN FREEMAN.

ADDRESSES AT THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

DECEMBER 15, 1903.

VOL. II. No. II.



The Pennsylvania German and His English and Scotch Irish Neighbors.

BY PROF. MARION D. LEARNED, PH. D.

It is "carrying coals to Newcastle," or, one might perhaps better say, to Cornwall, to come to Lebanon to talk of Lebanon county and its history, but your good secretary has insisted that I should at least touch upon Lebanon in my address, so I shall try to direct the discussion with this end in view.

The subject of most interest to me in all of this good work, which the county historical societies are carrying on, is that of the investigation of the race elements of the population and of the contribution which the several races have made to the history and institutions of our own State. In a recent work of two volumes, treating the history of the Germans in one of our younger States, I found scarcely a reference to a detailed investigation in local history, and this was no fault of the author of the work, but rather his misfortune, for it cannot be expected of the historian that he shall write general history and at the same time furnish his own sources by local investigation. The local work must be done by local investigators, or by local historical societies, and here lies the mission of our County Historical Societies, not only in this State, but throughout the United States. If more of the energy and research encouraged in our schools, colleges and universities could be centered upon local history and institutions the cause

of history might be greatly advanced and its results greatly enriched. If our students of history would make a general canvass of specific localities, going to the garrets and closet and store rooms and cellars and shops, and ransack barrels, boxes and old trunks, a great mass of historical material could be collected and the archives of our historical societies, as well as our local museums, enormously enriched. Our experience in 1902 with the American Ethnographical Survey in Lancaster and other counties taught us that this is the only way to collect these sources of our State history. We found in old trunks, barrels and boxes, which were discarded as useless trumpery, the archives, let us say, the lost archives, of much of our history, which had, in most cases, accidentally escaped the ravages of time from the days of the great-grandfathers to our own time. It is a lamentable fact that many of our best records have been destroyed and utterly lost. This applies not only to family records, but even to court house and other official documents, which in an earlier period were esteemed little more than cumbrous lumber. Is it then too much to exhort the representatives of our local historical societies to collect and preserve the surviving scraps of those earlier records?

There is no State in the Union where the races of Europe are so promiscuously commingled as in Pennsylvania. The Province of Pennsylvania was from the first a refuge for the oppressed and persecuted of all nationalities and was sought out by Germans, Swiss, and French Huguenots as the home of tolerance while it was recognized by the oppressed of the old world as the ideal land of liberty, the paradise of peace. Across the broad hills and green valleys of Pennsylvania has passed for more than a hundred years a restless multitude of toiling wanderers, seeking their fortune in the new world. Here may be heard the vernacular of scores of races whose hearts throb in unison with the National American anthem and whose pride rests in the generation now rising under the protection of the stars and stripes. A motley throng of aliens on the muster roll of Pennsylvania's sons from the first settle-

ments to the present day: Indians, Dutch, Swedes, English, Welsh, Scotch, Irish, Scotch-Irish, Germans, Swiss, Spanish, French Huguenots, Norwegians, Bohemians, Poles, Hungarians, Italians, Lithuanians, Russians, Armenians and hosts unnamed. The great problem of the history of the present day should be to determine what each of these race elements contributed to the building of this great commonwealth.

ORIGIN OF EARLY SETTLERS.

The traces of early settlers are still ~~found~~ and indicate clearly the nationalities to which they belong.

The red man, the Indian, first owner of the soil, has left his mark, his title seal upon the stream and hill and dale. Delaware, Susquehanna, Conestoga, Swatara, Quittapahilla, Lehigh, Kittanning, Allegheny and hundreds more of such names attest his ancient possession.

It is not known to the many and almost forgotten by the few that the Welsh Quakers made an organized effort to found a Barony* in Pennsylvania with "their own religion and language." Penn himself was a Welshman. The landmarks of the old Welsh settlers still survive in family names as David, Davies, Edd, Jones, Evan, John, Lloyd, Morgan, Owen, Pen coyd, Rees, Roberts, Ellis, Morris, Humphrey, William, Wat kin, Thomas, Lewis, Jenkins, Spencer, Foulke, Cadwaller, Griffith and Hugh; and in place names as Bala, Bryn Mawr, Gynedd, Merion, North Wales, Pencoyd, Penlyn, Penryn, Wynnewood, Caernavron, Welsh Mountain, &c.

SCOTCH IRISH QUAKERS.

We come next to the settlement of the Scotch Irish and find the Quakers prominent in this settlement. The Scotch Irish settlers of Pennsylvania came in two separate migrations, or, rather, in two separate groups of the same migration.

1. The trades people from Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Wexford, who settled in Philadelphia.

2. The yeomen (farmers) from Ulster, Leinster, the majority of whom settled in the country districts of the counties

* Thomas Allen Glenn, *Merion in the Welsh Tract, &c.*, in Norristown, 1896.

of Berks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Lancaster and York. The total migration of these Scotch Irish Quakers is estimated to have been about two thousand, with a communicant membership of about four hundred and forty*. The Scotch Irish had already settled on the Swatara before the Germans came to this part of Lebanon county.

GERMANS. LEBANON COUNTY AND ITS EARLY SETTLERS.

The settlement of what is now Lebanon county was made by at least five different streams or groups of immigrants :

1. *The Scotch Irish in Derry township before 1720.* This settlement is an extension of the Scotch Irish colony along the Susquehanna, and ~~represents the great~~ part of the pioneer adventurous enterprise of Pennsylvania in the early part of the eighteenth century. The account of this settlement in itself is worthy of a closer investigation at the hands of some local historian. A careful study of these early pioneers would reveal the hitherto rather hazy relations existing between the early German settlers and their English-speaking neighbors on the Susquehanna.

2. *The Palatines from New York.* The story of this people has been attempted more than once. The best of them, that of Dr. Schmauk, has given us finally the historical connection between these Mohawk Germans and those already settled in Pennsylvania. These Germans came, in their Mosaic wanderings, down the Susquehanna till they reached the Swatara, and pushed their way thence up stream to the fertile lands of the Tulpehocken and the Quittapahilla. The home of Conrad Weiser, the great Indian interpreter, the leading figure among these Germans, still stands near Womelsdorf as the monument of early German heroism in Lebanon county. The Lebanon Historical Society might fittingly make annual pilgrimages to the grave of Conrad Weiser. It is gratifying

* Albert Cook Myers, *Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania 1682-1850.* Swarthmore, 1902. p. 106 ff.

that one of our historians * * has given him an honorable and worthy treatment, setting him in his proper light before the present generation.

3. *The Palatines arriving at Philadelphia.* In August, 1829, some seventy-five families of so-called Palatines, consisting, as it seems, largely of Rheinish Palatines from the Middle Rhein. These Germans had followed in the track of the great migration of 1709 and naturally pushed out along the avenues of settlement into the outlying, untried lands of Lebanon and Berks counties.

4. *Jews at Shaefferstown.* It is scantily chronicled that a settlement of Jews was made at what is now Shaefferstown before 1732. Almost the only remains which we had of this settlement has within recent years practically disappeared in the demolition of their cemetery or necropolis; the old wall alone testifying to the presence of their silent dead. Here too is an unwritten story which local investigation and a study into family history might greatly elucidate.

5. *Later German Settlers from Germany.* It is but natural that with the advance of the population northward and westward the later Germans should seek homes in close proximity to the settlers of their own blood. Accordingly we find the vacant lands gradually taken up, for the most part by Germans, either direct from Germany, or by those from the older German settlements in lower Berks or Lancaster counties, so that by 1750 the eastern and central parts of the counties named, including the present Lebanon county, had a population strongly German in origin, as shown by the List of Taxables :

T. E. Schmauk, *A History of the Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania*, Chapter XVI, 1901.

Joseph S. Walton, *Conrad Weiser and the Indian Policy of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, 1900.

Londonderry township, West End Derry, year 1751.
Taxables, 52; English, c., 48; German possibly, 4.

East End Derry, 1751. Taxables, 91; English, 81;
German possibly, 10.

Hanover township, (east end) 1750. Taxables, 107;
English, c., 64; Germans, c., 43.

Bethel township, 1751. Taxables, 95; English, 12;
German, 83.

Heidelberg township, 1752. Taxables, 131; English, 7;
German, 124.

PROPORTION OF GERMANS IN POPULATION, 1750.

Lebanon township, 1750. 120 taxables; 17 (or 18) English;
103 Germans.

1755. About 180 taxables: 10 English; 160 German.
A notable diminution of the proportion of English taxables.

WARRANTEE OF LEBANON COUNTY.

Lebanon township, Heidelberg township and Bethel township. Total, 851. Possible English, (with many repetitions,) 93; possible German, (with repetition,) 758.

It must be noted that the lists are not strictly trustworthy as to race. The "English" list contains for example, Christopher, Letort, Bense, Ffarer, Grist, Grice, which are questionable, while the "Dutch" list has Davis, Taylor, Christopher, (repeated). (Egle, History of Dauphin county, 21-22.)

The following are interesting forms of German names found in the *List of Taxables* in Conestoga in 1718:

Boman (Bowman.)

Bugholder (Burghalter)

Ffalkner.

Fframe (Fremd?)

Ffunk (Funk.)
Griter (Kreider.)
Harmer (Hermann.)
Heer, Haer, Haure (?)
Kendig (Kendic.)
Keague (Keg or Kech ?)
Landus (Landis)
Prenneman (Brennemann)
Venrich (Faehndrich.)

The peculiar orthography of initial *Ff* in *Ffalkner*, *Ffunk*, &c., is due, doubtless to Welsh influence, as the combination *Ff* appears in that language.

In addition to such English reproduction of German names, we find English translation of German names, such as Carpenter (Zimmermann), Stone (Stein), Highstetter, (Hochstaetter, Weaver (Weber.)

This Englishing of names is very extensive wherever the Germans come into contact with English influences.

Kurz becomes Short or Little.
Klein becomes Small or Little.
Lang becomes Long.
Schneider becomes Taylor.
Steinweg becomes Stoneway.
Shreiner } becomes Carpenter.
Zimmermann }

The metamorphosis of names is going on in a most interesting manner at the present day. That was a good story told of the Pennsylvania German family Ochs. The first generation was gifted with the German characteristics of fruitfulness and longevity. The children as they grew up and became members of the household Ochs were called by the neighbors *Oechsli* to distinguish them from the older generation *Ochs*. When finally the older representatives of the fam-

ily died the family was perpetuated as Oechsli, which would naturally suggest a different origin from that of *Ochs*. In a different way the name *Roth* is the shorter survival of *Hilzer-roth*, a change which was actually made by a newly-arrived German in Baltimore a few years ago.

The Englishing of Polish and Russian names, especially of Jewish family names, is strongly in vogue at the present time. One of my own students, who was known last year as *Slominski*, rematriculated this year as *Sloan*, which would suggest a very different nationality.

GERMAN AND ENGLISH.

The instruction of German and English in the period of 200 years has produced most significant results in the development of both languages in America.

Eng. in P.-G. It is safe to say that 500 English words have found their way as good usage into the Pennsylvania German dialect.

P. G. in Eng. On the other hand the P. G. has left its impress upon the English spoken in the German localities. How few cultivated people, even, escape this Germanizing influence!

VULGAR ENGLISH IN PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN.

It is a most instructive fact that a great number of everyday colloquial English words, which have been taken up into the vocabulary of Penna.-German, have the form and pronunciation of the *vulgar* English, which the Penna. German heard in his daily intercourse with his English and Scotch-Irish neighbors. The fact reflects the cultural status of the people of both nationalities, the English-speaking inhabitants chiefly (Scotch-Irish) on the one hand and the German population on the other.

The following examples are characteristic :

P. G. Penreil,	vulgar penrile, pennyroyal.
Beiler,	" biler, boiler.
Endzhein,	" engine, engine.
Faeschen,	" fashin, fashions
Graendaed,	" grandad, grandfather.
Hospaner,	" hosspower, horse power.
Heist,	" heist, hoist.
Ketch,	" ketchl, catch.
Likrisch,	" licrish, licorice.
Musschkiter,	" muskeeter, mosquito.
Muschnilyen,	" mushmetion, muskmelon.
Pikter,	" picter, picture.
Rumedis,	" rumatiz, rheumatism.
Schkids,	" skeets, skates.
Semqli.	" semmly, assembly.
Sesser,	" sesser, assessor. [ent.
Superintendent.	" superintender, superintendent.
Umbrel,	" umbrell, umbrella.

Among the English words which have displaced the colloquial Penna. German are :

About, ungefahrt.

Same, selber in der (die das) same instead of der selbe, &c.

Now, nun; jetzt.

Mind ufmache, High German, sich entschleisen, (Make up one's mind.)

Mind bisness, sage vor deiner eigener Thur. High Ger., (mind one's business.)

The relative pronoun *wa* is not English influence, but is found both in Palatine (Nädler) and in Swiss (German)

PENNA. GERMAN IN ENGLISH SPEECH.

One of your own townsmen has written an important paper on the subject, Proceedings of Am. Philog. Society, and I am about to publish another paper by one of our most successful normal school professors on the same subject.

A few of the most notable of these excursions in English will suffice for our purpose.

All. The bread is all. All gone.

Already. Did you tell him already,

Eat. When do you eat? Take your dinner.

Auxiliaries. Would for should, &c., are an infallible sign of one's Penna. German environment.

FOOD.

There is no more interesting and, at the same time, no more significant form of life for determining the inter-relations of race element than that of food and culinary tradition. In this particular the Germans of Pennsylvania have made a lasting impression upon American life. The traveler in passing from New England to Pennsylvania and Maryland and Virginia traverses a wide domain of great diversity in the history of the cuisine. The conditions of the soil have much to do with the kind of food served, but the cook in the kitchen determines the palatability of these products, when they are placed upon the table.

It is still an unsettled question as to where the sumptuous fare of the rural Pennsylvania German table takes its origin. If one looks for it in the survivors of the Palatines in their native haunts in Germany, one will meet with great disappointment and sit down to hard brown bread, plain boiled meat and potatoes, with now and then a sausage and a bit of hard cheese thrown in, and a cup of plain coffee, or still plainer beer, to wash it down. There is, however, in certain of the Swiss settlements of the Palatinate, as the author discovered in 1903 in his rambles, what seems to be a surviving prototype of the delicious cake or cakes, (I might say, rather,) pies and coffee, which constitute the rich fare of the Lancaster Mennonite farmer. But to content ourselves with the more general articles of food we may easily detect distinct survivals of food which the earlier settlers brought with them from Germany. The following are of unmistakable German origin, although they have developed for themselves a second soft palate in the mouth of the Scotch Irish and other English speak-

ing neighbors of the Pennsylvania German. Of the numerous, almost nameless, German cheeses, we still have in name and game: *smearcase*, *hoffeecake* (or cup cheese,) *swiss cheese*, and *hond case*, (or hand cheese.) Other surviving articles of food which have found a great market among Americans generally are *fasnochts*, a German article which corresponds to the Dutch *cruller*; *pretzels*, large and small; *noodles*, *pannhaws*, (pan rabbit;) *sausages* galore, but without the doubtful ingredients which constitute the filling of foreign *saysages*; most notable among them are the *Frankforter*, which may be still found in any well-regulated city of America.

A still more ubiquitous German commodity is *beer*, which is fast becoming in America the national drink in spite of strong protestation. The German *wines*, after long, and to a great extent, unsuccessful experiment on American soil, are now beginning to compete with those of the old vintages of the Fatherland. These American wines, too, like their less distinguished rival, beer, have found their way to the palates of the English-speaking population.. The German wine has to a large extent proved a successful competitor of the old Burgundian and French wines generally, thus achieving the distinction of becoming an aristocratic beverage in America.

FOLKLORE.

The Germans have enriched in American folklore, giving us two of our most characteristic feasts as they are observed at the present time. Christmas, with its evergreen tree, and much of its lavish bestowal of gifts and other associations. Kriskingle is the American successor of the German Christ-kindli, that German impostor upon childish credulity. The other feast, that of Easter, with its rabbits and rabbits' eggs, has come down through a long line of tradition from the festival of the goddess Ostera.

ARCHITECTURE.

Ths old colonial records furnish documentary evidence that the first settlers built, as far as circumstances would per-

mit, in their native style. So persistent was the architectural style that its remains can still be traced at the present day. We need only to refer to the old Dutch houses in New York, and to the various styles of German house in Pennsylvania, in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Lititz, Ephrata, Manheim, and other parts of Lancaster county. While the German house as a residential form was forced to yield to the English mansion house of the Georgian epoch, the German Swiss barn has survived, not only maintaining its general ground type, but undergoing further evolution in its adaptation to American conditions.

TRADES AND INDUSTRIES.

Trades. In the trades the Germans have played a most important role in the building of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In the Conestoga Expedition of 1902 we investigated, among other things, the introduction and extent of the German trade in Pennsylvania, especially, however, in Lancaster county. It was found that in the early part of the eighteenth century the German trades were distributed throughout the county, and that in the more German regions of eastern Pennsylvania the German trades supplied, to a large extent, the larger cities with their wares.

Shoemakers. Here set in the tradition which is still in force, for the German is still our shoemaker, even though the factory has reduced him to a cobbler.

Tailors. And our clothes are still made (except when we wish to be very English) by the German tailor.

Cabinetmakers. The great skill of the German cabinetmaker is attested by the fine specimens still found in the families as heirlooms.

Wheelwrights. The German wheelwright played an important role in building the Conestoga wagon for the pike traffic in earlier days.

Smiths. Still the German blacksmith wields his hammer and welds his iron in our shops.

Carpenters. Much of our solid structure in rural architecture is the work of the German builders.

Watch and Clockmakers. The German vied with the Englishman in constructing timepieces. The Swiss watchmaker only yielded to the force of the American machine.

In the case of German industries we find much that has left a lasting impress upon our material progress and still continues a significant factor in our industrial development.

Commerce. The colonial commerce of Pennsylvania was maintained through activity of Dutch, English, Spanish, French and Portugese merchantmen. In the course of the nineteenth century the English and German steamship lines have carried the great burdens of trade. The German liners, as the successor of the seafarers of the Habsburgs, have come to be one of the most important factors in trans-Atlantic shipping. Thus gradually the German sea power, first as merchant marine and latterly as organized navy, has come into rivalry with the Saxon sovereigns of the sea, the successors of the Saxon and Norman conquerors of the British Isles.

In all of this great activity of the early Germans in our inland and maritime enterprise, Lebanon as the home of agriculture and of the rich ores has had its part. The progress of industries and trades of the country during the last sixty years can be illustrated by a glance at the following totals in the county in 1840 :

Population of Lebanon county in 1840, 21,872.

Persons engaged in mining, -	27
" " " learned professions, -	47
" " " commerce, -	122
" " " navigation, (canals) -	130
" " " (sea) -	2

" " agriculture, 2,205
" " manufactures and trade, 4,324

There were 3 furnaces, producing 3,020 tons of cast iron.

" " 3 bloomeries and forges, 297 tons of bar iron.

" " coal consumed by furnace, 6,108 tons.

" " men employed, 231.

Cost, \$233,000.

The Educational Work of Lebanon County.

(Brief Abstract.)

BY REV. H. U. ROOP, PH. D.

Had the Lebanon County Historical Society been in existence fifty years ago, it would have been very much easier and more satisfactory to have traced, even in a cursory manner, the history of the educational work of our county. Since no early records are to be found, most of the information has been gleaned from some of the oldest inhabitants, scattered throughout the county.

As early as 1744 an organization, known as the "Berg Gemeinde," (Hill Congregation,) of Lutheran and Reformed members, was organized, and had erected for itself a small church building. This was the first church built, erected in what now forms Lebanon county, long before there was a settlement at Steitztown, or Lebanon, the county seat.

Later by a few years, true to their fatherland custom, they erected a school house. This was the first school, not only in Annville township, but within the county limits. In 1804 the Lutheran and Reformed congregation erected a church and parochial school in the village of Annville. This school was continued all the year round, open to all. The instruction was at first altogether German, but in later years some of the English branches were added. Among others who taught here were Messrs. German, Mohler, Matillions, Gerhart, Fisher, Bachman, Stine and Todd.

In 1815 there was an English school organization in the

village of Annville, taught by Patrick McCullough and Mr. Jameson. All these men were spoken of as liberally educated, but very dissolute.

In the early educational history of Lebanon county the academy figured prominently.

The first academy was incorporated by Act of Legislature February 8, 1816, with an appropriation of \$2,000. Its trustees were Reverends Wm. Heister, Wm. Hendel, Wm. G. Ernst, Philip Gloninget, Messrs. J. Andrew Shultz, Peter Shindel, Samuel Light, John Harrison, Edwin Godwin, Philip Greenawalt, Philip Wolfersberger, Jr., Doctors George Reidenaur and Duncan King, and Messrs. Peter Lineaweaver, Abraham Doeble, John Batdorf and Jacob B. Weidman. Rev. Mr. Todd, of Harrisburg, was the first teacher, beginning October 21, 1826. Soon after another select school for boys was organized in Lebanon, taught by Mr. J. H. Kluge. In 1841 a union of the two schools was effected; Mr. Kluge took charge of the academy and held it until 1852, when the building was leased to the public school board, and it became the Lebanon high school; one of the conditions being that the classics should be taught. Mr. Kluge was retained as principal, at a salary of \$400. In 1854 he was elected county superintendent, and was succeeded successively by Mr. J. M. Titzel, Mr. Robert McCormick, Mr. Samuel Light, Mr. Cyrus Boger and Mr. W. J. Burnside.

In 1834 Annville academy was founded by Messrs. John Shertzer, Adam Ulrich, Leonard Heilig, Daniel Strupenhauer and others. It was well patronized. Some of the instructors were Simon Andrews, W. J. Burnside, Daniel Balsbaugh, Cyrus Boger and J. S. Krumbein.

In 1859 Professor Balsbaugh, who now owned the old academy building, tore it down and erected a large three-story brick building. Soon afterward Prof. Balsbaugh died and the property was sold to Messrs. George Rigler, John Bachman, Jacob Shertzer and others, all Annville citizens.

In 1865 the East Pennsylvania Conference of the United

Brethren in Christ, at its annual session, held in Lebanon, in March, passed a resolution, almost unanimously, deciding to establish a school of high grade. One year later, at the conference held in Columbia, the committee on location, Reverends D. S. Early, G. W. M. Rigor, W. S. H. Keys, and Messrs. J. B. Stehman and Abram Sherk reported, and the conference took decisive action to establish a co-educational school of high grade and to accept the grounds and building of what was then known as Annville academy and which property was offered as a free gift to the conference by Messrs. Rudolph Herr, John H. Kinports, Geo. A. Mark, L. W. Craumer, George W. Hoverter and others, citizens of Annville, on condition that the conference establish and maintain forever an institution of high grade. The school was opened in May, 1866, and the first faculty was composed of Reverend Thomas R. Vickroy, president of Lebanon Valley College; Mrs. E. S. Vickroy, preceptress; D. W. Friese, Miss E. A. Stetson and Miss Ellen Walker. Fifty students were enrolled the first session. During the session of 1867 of the State Legislature, a liberal charter was granted and signed by Governor John W. Geary, April 7, 1867. The same year the East Pennsylvania Conference appropriated the sum of \$25,000 for the purchase of additional grounds, and for erecting thereon a main building, the cornerstone of which was laid August 23, 1867.

The college has seen seven presidents: the present incumbent, Hervin U. Roop, was elected June 14, 1897, and is the first alumnus of the college to fill this position. In 1898 and '99 the new music hall was erected, and in 1900 the main building was enlarged, doubling its capacity. In 1902 six acres were added to the real estate of the college; in 1903 the Brightbill gymnasium was begun, and at this writing the college's architect is developing plans for a new library building, the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and also plans for the new ladies' hall, both to be built during the year. The attendance has been almost quadrupled, the present enrollment being four hundred and fifty-six.

In 1838 the Lebanon Female academy was incorporated, and the State Legislature appropriated \$400 a year to its support. The first teacher was Mrs. Ingall, who was succeeded by Mrs. Moore, Miss Sarah Ellis Eddy and Mr. John Marsh, who taught until 1872, when the building was leased to the board of public schools for the female high school—one of the conditions being that the classics should continue to be taught.

The Schaefferstown academy was the next in chronological order, to be established in 1849 by Doctor Zerbe, William Weigley, Peter Zimmerman and George F. Miller. The first teacher was Mr. Wm. Missimer. He was succeeded by Mrs. Emily Miller, who taught with much success until it was discontinued and the property sold and converted into a private residence.

In 1859 Swatara collegiate institute was erected a little north of Jonestown borough. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic honors, August 20. Professor I. D. Rupp was the first principal of the school and continued it with good success. Several different times it was closed and reopened. In August, 1870, Rev. E. J. Koons bought the property, remodeled it, and in 1875 the building was burned to the ground. It was reconstructed at a cost of \$18,000 and dedicated October 21, 1875, receiving the name "Heilman Hall," in honor of Honorable Jacob G. Heilman, through whose untiring energy Professor Koons was enabled to rebuild it. The school was very largely patronized locally and from various sections of Pennsylvania. In May, 1878, it was purchased by Mrs. William Coleman and deeded to the Right Rev. Marc Antony De-Wolfe Howe, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, for a "Church Home for Children." On the 29th of December, 1881, the house was formally set apart and opened as a "Home for Destitute Orphans and Other Desolate Children," by Bishop Howe. The Rev. A. M. Abel is the present housefather and chaplain.

Another academy with a good reputation was known as

Palmyra academy, which was founded in 1863, and officered by Professor Peter B. Witmer, assisted by his son. Soon after the death of its founder, Mr. Witmer, it was sold to the United Brethren church of Palmyra, who have erected upon its location their beautiful church.

In 1868 Palatinate college, located at Myerstown, was organized. The Reformed church classis, at the request of the people of Myerstown, who pledged sufficient money for the erection of a building, received the institution under its care, and April 2, 1868, elected a principal and a number of assistants. In 1873 Rev. G. W. Aughinbaugh was elected president. Some years afterward the Reformed church discontinued it, and the property was bought by the United Evangelical church in 1895, and for several years it was run very successfully as the "Albright Collegiate Institute." The name has since been changed to Albright college and the Rev. James D. Woodring is the new president.

At different times and places vigorous efforts were put forth for the free education of the young. For example, as early as the year 1767, the settlers of Jackson township erected a building, appointed a teacher, and thus provided for the education of their children. The passage of the public school law, (Act of June, 1836,) fell like a bombshell upon many communities. Opposition to the tenor of the law soon manifested itself, and spread so rapidly in some districts that when a popular vote was taken the measure was defeated by overwhelming majorities. This antagonism prevailed until the passage of the Act of 1848-'49, compelling all districts to accept the provisions of the law. Schools were kept up in the meantime, and provisions were made for the instruction of the poor, of which class there appeared to be quite a number. Between the years of 1840 and 1845 all parents in indigent circumstances were reported by the assessor to the county commissioners, said commissioners, after hearing the reports, made appropriations for the education of such children.

The first tax levied for public school purposes was col-

lected in 1845 : the receipts being wholly used for defraying tuition and paying books for poor children. The first school board was elected in 1849, and was composed of Messrs. William Stoever, Jonathan Steiner, John Kreitzer, William Haak, John Tice, and John Mosser.

Perhaps I should take time to refer to another item of peculiar interest. In the southern part of the East Hanover district, on Indian Creek, General Harrison, afterward President of the United States, long carried on a woolen factory, and here he established a school for the children of his workmen and others of the neighborhood who wished to attend. This school was considered very successful, being composed of English-speaking pupils and taught by the best teaching material the county produced. Many of the teachers were secured direct from the old country. Among others, the school was taught by Messrs. Baker, Canan, Canada, and Jameson.

Another school, established by the community, called Harper's school, on account of the Harper's family being mainly instrumental in having it organized, is spoken of as having been very successful. The teachers received fifty dollars per month, which certainly was good pay ninety years ago. Now they pay their teachers an average of thirty-two dollars.

From the few schools scattered over the county prior to the adoption of the common school system until now, they have multiplied to three hundred and three. With few exceptions our public school teachers have kept pace with the growth of the system, and, although not yet what we could wish them to be, nevertheless they are making commendable efforts to become so.

Another educational agency of considerable value was the Teachers' Institute. The first meeting of teachers of which we have any record was held in the Lebanon Academy, on the evening of April 26, 1855, and the organization was known as the Teachers' Association of Lebanon.

The first county meeting was held in the court house on

Saturday, December 15, 1855. The attendance was small, the session lasted only one day, and aside from adopting constitutions, electing officers, and passing resolutions, very little seems to have been accomplished. It would be interesting to trace the history of institutes up to the present time, but time will not permit. It is suffice to say now that the County Teachers' Institute is considered the leading educational event of the year, all the teachers attend, and that in the attendance of the public, and the general interest manifested, there are few, if any, counties ahead of our own.

The county superintendency should also be mentioned as a very helpful factor in furthering the educational work of our county. The following gentlemen have served in this capacity: John H. Kluge, July 5, 1854, to December 1, 1858; Franklin Phillips, who died in office, was appointed to serve unexpired term. Henry Houck, our present efficient Deputy State Superintendent, was appointed August 11, 1859, and resigned March 9, 1868. William G. Lehman was appointed March 9, 1868, and was succeeded by Cyrus Boger, January 1, 1875, who served until June 7, 1875, when Wm. Boden-horn was commissioned and served until his death, March 4, 1889. He was succeeded by our present efficient Superintendent, John W. Snoke.

That good progress has been made, none will gainsay; that there is yet room for progress, every aggressive worker will concede.

JACOB WEIDEL.

Biographical Sketch of Hon. Jacob Weidel, Reading, Pa.

Jacob Weidel was born at Jonestown, February 11, 1800. He was the son of Daniel Weidel, a potter by trade, and to this calling he was apprenticed and by it he earned his first wages. He attended ~~school where~~ instruction was entirely in the German language, and was unable to read or speak English until he reached his fourteenth year. He possessed a wonderful aptitude for acquiring languages, and rapidly learned to use English and German with equal and ready fluency, and added to these acquirements a sufficient knowledge of Latin and French to enable him to read and understand them. In addition to his linguistic accomplishments he was a thorough mathematician, solving with ease and facility the most intricate problems submitted to him. His oldest son, Addison, inherited this trait and was well and widely known as a lightning calculator.

His first wife was Catharine Hicks, of Union township. The son above named was her only child. Her death came two years after marriage.

His second wife was Maria Bickel, daughter of John and Catharine Bickel, of Jonestown. There were born to them two daughters and three sons, and only one of them, a son, is now living.

The study of medicine and theology, opened to him at this time, an inviting field for mental activity and he read much in the branches of learning.

A more remunerative as well as congenial employment was offered him by Capt. John Weidman of Revolutionary

fame, of Union Forge, namely the management of a plantation of nearly 2,000 acres, containing forge, grist mill, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, saddlery, and all the necessary departments of a large estate. Captain Weidman, besides being a magistrate, was a surveyor and conveyancer, a justice of the peace, and an associate judge of the county court. He found an apt scholar in his clerk, who readily mastered the details of the office of manager and owner. At the death of Captain Weidman, he succeeded to the sole management of this extensive property, and remained at his post for more than fifteen years.

It was while manager at Union Forge that the question of free school education was first submitted to the people of the State. The opposition was led by the wealthy class, who strenuously objected on the grounds of increased taxation, and also argued that general education would inculcate a spirit of indolence and shiftlessness among the working class, who were likely to regard manual labor as degrading. Mr. Weidel had not found this to be the case, so far as his own experience as a result of education showed, and therefore, became the earnest champion of free schools.

It was largely through his instrumentality that the public school system was introduced into Union and East Hanover townships.

While manager at Union Forge he was appointed justice of the peace and served in that capacity for many years. In 1847 he removed to Lebanon, the county seat, and engaged in surveying and acting as a scrivener, a title used to designate a person qualified to prepare legal papers of all kinds.

His office adjoined that of Dr. Geo. Lineaweafer on Cumberland street. He subsequently purchased the property at the northwest corner of Ninth and Willow streets, and lived in the two-story frame house on the corner until 1850, when he built the adjoining two-story brick dwelling on Ninth street next to the corner, where he died in 1873.

It was during his residence in Lebanon that he was ap-

pointed justice of the peace by Governor Bigler and held the office until he entered the employ of Robert W. Coleman, of Cornwall, sometime during the year of 1851.

He surveyed the Coleman estate at Cornwall and copied all the deeds, showing the chain of title from the proprietary grant of Thomas Penn to the latest purchase. These copies were printed at the time of the construction of the Cornwall R. R. and formed a book called The Muniments of the Title of the Cornwall Estate.

Upon the completion of the Cornwall R. R. he became its first superintendent and treasurer. He was succeeded as superintendent by Beale Few, but continued in office as treasurer until the day of his death.

He assisted in the organization and served as president of the Lebanon Gas Co., and was elected president of the Washington Mutual-Fire Insurance Co., president of the Cornwall & Lebanon Turnpike Co.; also served as director of the Lebanon National Bank, and in the Lebanon Valley National Bank, and was interested in the Lebanon Dime Savings Bank. He was also one of the organizers of the Beneficial Society which owned its own hall on Tenth street, near the Academy building.

As a member of the Masonic Order he was prominent, secured a renewal of the charter of the Mt. Lebanon Lodge, after it had been disbanded during the Anti-Masonic excitement, though he vainly strove to have the old number restored.

Weidel H. R. A., Chapter 197, was named in his honor, and he had the three degrees of Knighthood in Templar Masonry conferred upon him by special dispensation, the officers of the Grand Encampment K. T. of Pennsylvania, visiting Lebanon for that purpose, the ceremony taking place in the Hall of Mt. Lebanon Lodge.

Politically he was no less esteemed, having been nominated for the office of State Senator, when Lancaster and Lebanon comprised one senatorial district. He was also

nominated for the Assembly as then called, but now known as the House of Representatives. His party (Democratic) was in the minority, hence he failed of election, though receiving what was then regarded as a most flatteringly large vote.

He was also candidate for Congress in the old Lebanon, Dauphin and Perry district.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Zion's Lutheran church, and president of the Wistar Library Association, organized in 1852, the library ~~room~~ being in the court house on the west side of the main corridor. Andrew H. Embich was the first librarian.

His brick residence on North Ninth street was one of the first houses to be lighted by illuminating gas.

He was chief burgess of Lebanon during the years 1857 and 1858, a member of the school board and for a time its president, and assisted in the election of Prof. J. Henry Kluge as the first county superintendent.

He was appointed by Governor Curtin, a member of the commission to investigate and determine the extent of the border county war claims, caused by the raids and invasions made by the Confederate army during the civil war. The other members were Col. James Worrall and Hon. A. V. Hiester, both of Harrisburg. Their report was duly made and formed the basis of the demand made upon the National Government.

After the death of Abraham Light, his executors sought his advice, as to the disposition of the estate comprising what is now known as East Lebanon. The western boundary of the estate was Seventh street, on the south, Walnut street, east by city line, and on the north by the Lebanon Valley R. R.

He suggested the division of the property into building lots, and he made the topographical survey as now legally recognized, and prepared many of the deeds of purchase. The lots were sold at auction in the middle storeroom of the Eagle building, the auctioneer being Major Fred. Embich. Henry

T. Hoffman who was the first purchaser of a building lot made extensive investments in real estate at that period.

During the civil war and before the issue of fractional currency, he issued fractional currency for local circulation which was accepted by the banks and business firms and formed part of the local monetary currency which continued in effect for one year.

He served the public in many ways, not the least of which was the arbitration of legal and business disputes. His judgment was generally accepted as fair and just.

He proved a valuable aid to builders and masons in the preparations of estimates of contracts and special work. Many legal papers drawn by him in the German language were forwarded through the Consul at Philadelphia and received commendation from the authorities abroad for their accuracy and excellence of style.

Socially he was a congenial companion and no gathering seemed complete without his cheerful presence and flow of anecdote.

When he was borne to rest in Mt. Lebanon cemetery June 30, 1873, the formal services were conducted under the auspices of the Grand Commandery of K. T. Pennsylvania. The Grand Prelate the Rev. Robert Pattison, D. D., of Philadelphia, father of ex-Governor Pattison, recited the ritual.

IN MEMORIAM.

William Coleman Freeman.

William Coleman Freeman, son of the late Col. Wm. G. Freeman, U. S. A., and Margaret Coleman Freeman, was born at Washington, D. C., February 22, 1847. Died at Princeton, N. J., February 7, 1903, and was buried in North Laurel Hill cemetery, Philadelphia.

He received his early education partly through private tutors, and at Dr. Lyon's School for Boys, at Haverford, Pa. He entered Princeton University in 1865, and was graduated from that institution in 1869. In 1871, his mother, Mrs. Margaret C. Freeman, having concluded to erect a blast furnace on property purchased from Jos. Bowman, now known as "North Cornwall Furnace," Mr. Freeman acted as her representative, under the title of superintendent, up to the time of her death in January, 1894; and thus became identified with the iron manufacturing industry of Lebanon county. In 1884, on the formation of the Cornwall Iron Company "Limited," he was elected chairman and treasurer, which position, as well as that of president of the Cornwall railroad company, he filled continuously up to 1897. He was also chairman and treasurer of the Robesonia Iron Company "Limited," from the formation of that company in 1885, up to the time of his death. He also served as secretary of the Cornwall Ore Bank company for a number of years and was a member of the school board of Cornwall district for several terms, occupying both positions when he died. Mr. Freeman was a man of positive character, progressive ideas and generous impulses;

and while he appeared to be retiring and reserved to people unacquainted with him, owing to a diffidence brought about by deafness occasioned by an attack of scarlet fever when a child, to those in close touch with him, he was a most congenial companion and a warm friend. He was married in April 1880 to Miss Elizabeth P. Brown, who died February 3, 1881. Mr. Freeman left a son, William C. Freeman, surviving him, who is now a student at Princeton University.

In his youth Mr. Freeman became connected with the Protestant Episcopal church, and had been one of the vestry of St. Luke's church, at Lebanon.

In politics he was a staunch Republican, but never aspired to prominence in the party.

He became a member of the Lebanon County Historical Society in 1902, and showed quite an interest in its success, although he did not take a prominent part in its proceedings.

For the high esteem in which he was held in this community, and for his worthiness as a citizen, the Society pays this tribute to his memory.

12/21/2007
118458 E 96 00



HF GROUP-IN

